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ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
and  
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
of the  
Halstead Urban District

for the Year 1958

by

Dr. JOHN HARKNESS

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector

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HALSTEAD

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DR. JOHN HARKNESS

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Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Rural District Council

and

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

JOHN W. BARKER (To May, 1958)

D.R.S.H.

HAROLD NIELD (From May, 1958)

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Rural District Council.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the district during 1958.

Vital Statistics

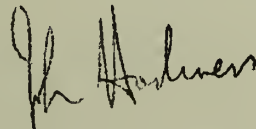
The total number of births was 95 giving a birth rate of 14.5 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 16.4.

There were 84 deaths and the death rate per 1,000 of the population was 12.8. The figure for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 of the population. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis but 4 deaths were recorded from Cancer of the Lung.

Infectious Diseases

Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. For the last four years children in the 13 year old age group have been offered vaccination against Tuberculosis and it is disappointing to find that only half the parents accept this opportunity. It has been found that children are more likely to be infected with Tuberculosis when they leave school and mix for the first time with large numbers of adults outside the immediate family circle. It is to be hoped that in future years more parents will avail themselves of this protection for their children.

The immunisation campaign against Poliomyelitis continued during the year and in Halstead and District a total of 2,246 children under the age of 15 years received two injections from the general practitioners and the staff of the County Council.



Medical Officer of Health



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the Public Health Inspector's work during the year ending 31st December, 1958, which consists mainly of statistics given on pages 10 to 25 required by various statutory provisions. It indicates the wide and varied field covered by environmental public health work, details the improvements secured during the year, and also shows what had to be neglected.

From May, pending the formation of a Joint Public Health Department with the Halstead Rural District Council and the provision of adequate staff, it was not possible, in addition to essential and pressing Public Health Inspector's duties, to do much more than general survey work in order to become familiar with the circumstances of the District.

Food hygiene work had to be restricted, but in general the standard was reasonably satisfactory and food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. 100% meat inspection was carried out, but adequate poultry inspection at the two poultry dressing premises where approximately 8,000 birds were killed weekly was not possible. Milk and ice cream were sampled as a routine measure and the 3 samples of each were bacteriologically satisfactory. From April, by Ministry Order, it became obligatory that all milk sold by retail in the District be Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

23 routine samples of water were taken, and the 19 from the Council's mains supply were satisfactory.

Housing lies at the very heart of all public health work, and these duties took priority. It should never be overlooked that housing will remain the prime obstacle to the establishment of what we know as positive health until the entire population is adequately housed. Nor should it be forgotten that the primary test of a house's value is its fitness for human habitation, and not the fleeting aesthetic impression gained from its external appearance. Concentration on the inspection, repair and reconditioning of dwelling-houses in the



District is, in my opinion, most essential. The normal deterioration of existing houses, increasing numbers of which are progressively falling steadily behind modern standards on account of age and lack of maintenance repair and improvement work, unless arrested by timely reconditioning and improvement work, might present a serious slum clearance problem in the future. In this connection the Rent Act appears to have had very little effect in securing the carrying out of normal repair and maintenance work.

Routine inspections of factories and workplaces were carried out as possible, and remedial action was taken in cases where defects were found.


In November the Council took over the rat and mouse destruction contract services on agricultural properties which had previously been operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The importance of the protective and preventive work accomplished by the manifold routine public health duties should not be underestimated, appreciating the concept of health as being much more than the mere absence of recognisable disease or infirmity.

The interest and confidence of the members of the Public Health Committee was very much appreciated, and I was indebted to the other officers of the Council for their courteous and helpful co-operation in duties which were of mutual concern.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. M. Smith', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Public Health Inspector





STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,550
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,323
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£71,352
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£274

VITAL STATISTICS

Live births:-

				Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	...	...	...	94	40	54	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	-	
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.5
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.4

Still Births:-

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total births (live and still)	...	...	...	...	...	...	95



Infantile and Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	...	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...			-
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births				-
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births				-
Neonatal mortality rate (First four weeks) per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	-
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				1.05
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...		Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births				-

Deaths:-

	Total	Male	Female	
	84	41	43	
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	12.8
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...			10.24
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)				11.7



DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1958

Disease							Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis (other)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal infection	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Melignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	11
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	9
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1



Disease	Male	Female
Other heart disease .. .. .	4	5
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	3	Nil
Influenza .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	2
Bronchitis .. .. .	2	Nil
Other diseases of respiratory system	Nil	Nil
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	1	Nil
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	2	Nil
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Congenital malformation .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	Nil	Nil
All other accidents .. .. .	1	Nil
Suicide .. .. .	1	Nil
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Totals .. .. .	41	43





PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Infectious Hepatitis ...	1	Nil	Nil
Measles ... ..	1	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	Nil	Nil	Nil
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	3	3	Nil
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals ... ..	5	3	Nil



Tuberculosis - New Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1 and under 5 years	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
5 and under 10 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10 and under 15 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15 and under 20 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20 and under 25 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
25 and under 35 years	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
35 and under 45 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
45 and under 55 years	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
55 and under 65 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
65 years and upwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals ...	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

Transfers from other Districts: Nil

Deaths from Tuberculosis: Nil

Food Poisoning Notifications: Nil



1. FOOD

(a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by your Public Health Inspectors regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:-

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses ... ..	4	5
Fish Fryers ... ..	2	3
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	3	3
General Provision Shops ...	40	14
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	22	3
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	7	12
Meat Shops ... ..	5	26
Poultry Dressing Premises ...	2	6
Public Houses, Inns, etc. ...	33	Nil
Restaurants and Cafes ...	3	7
Slaughterhouses ... ..	2	189
Street Vendors ... ..	Nil	2
Totals ...	123	270

Food premises fully surveyed ... ..	3
Food poisoning investigations ... ..	1
Informal notices served ... ..	2
Food premises improved ... ..	2
Food vehicles improved ... ..	Nil



No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year. Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. Success in this matter is very dependent upon public opinion.

#### (b) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered.

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	48 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	213 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	...	465 lbs.
Total						<u>734 lbs.</u>

This condemned food was disposed of by burial in deep refuse pits. No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

#### (d) Post-mortem Inspection of Animals

Two slaughterhouses licensed by the Council were used for meat supplies to local butchers during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on five days per week including Saturday afternoons.

Details of post mortem inspection of animals were:

			Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed (Estimated)	...		468	Nil	8	1768	1040	Nil
No. Inspected	...	...	413	Nil	8	1152	942	Nil





	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	0.97	Nil	Nil	0.18	0.11	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	Nil
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.53	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The figures in the above tables are in respect of animals inspected during or shortly after slaughter. Where such inspection was impossible on account of pressure of other work, carcasses were examined in butchers' shops later.



(d) Milk and Dairies

Details of registrations, licences and inspections, and of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:-

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Registered Dairy Premises ... ..	5	6
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	5	Nil
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk ...	5	Nil
Licensed Dealers of Sterilised Milk ...	3	Nil
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	1	Nil
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk ...	1	Nil
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Sterilised Milk ...	Nil	Nil
Totals ...	20	6

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	1	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pasteurised	2	2	Nil
Undesignated	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	3	3	Nil



(e) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Details of samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following table:-

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	2	Excellent	2
II	1	V. Satisfactory	1
III	Nil	Satisfactory	Nil
IV	Nil	Fair	Nil
		Unsatisfactory	Nil
	Total 3		Total 3

(f) General

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for Chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice-cream, etc., but details of such sampling were not notified to the Urban District Council.



## 2. WATER

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Water from the Council's Undertaking was not treated by chlorination or softening.

As a routine procedure samples were submitted for laboratory examination monthly.

During the year the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:-

- (a) Inspections regarding water supplies ... .. 3
- (b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies ... Nil
- (c) Informal Notices served re water supplies ... Nil
- (d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table ... .. 23

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	19	19	Nil
Private Water Mains	Nil	Nil	Nil
Public Wells, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private Wells, etc.	4	2	2
Totals	23	21	2





A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply, is given in the following table:

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
Turbidity	Less than 3	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	270
Colour	Nil	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	20
Odour	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen	0.25
pH	7.3	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	24	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.02
Electric Conductivity	700	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C	465	Oxygen Absorbed	0.10
Chlorine present as Chloride	76	Metals: Iron	0.15
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	270	Zinc	Absent
Hardness: Total	290	Copper, Lead, Manganese etc.	Absent



### 3. HOUSING

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#### (a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	87
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded ... ..	22
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning ... ..	10
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding ... ..	1
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair	8
(6)	Inspections of moveable dwellings ... ..	1
(7)	Miscellaneous housing inspections ... ..	9
(8)	Investigations of applications by Council house tenants to take lodgers ... ..	2

#### (b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects ... ..	23
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act requiring remedy of housing disrepair ... ..	Nil
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act requiring remedy of housing disrepair ...	Nil

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses.



(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses Officially Represented under Housing Act	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Undertakings accepted	(a) to make fit for human habitation	2	(b) not to use for human habitation	Nil	
(3)	Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	1
(5)	Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (December 1958)	...	...	...	...	7
(6)	Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (December 1958)	...	...	...	...	7
(7)	Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1958)	(a) to make fit for human habitation	2	(b) not to use for human habitation	25	

(d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables:-

Houses in District	Unfit Houses	Houses to be demolished during 5 year period 1956/60.
2265	398	100

Year	Houses Represented	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Dem. Orders Made	Clearance Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished
1956	4	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
1957	36	13	16	10	Nil	Nil	3
1958	4	2	Nil	1	Nil	1	11
Totals:	44	16	16	12	Nil	1	14

Total Houses in Slum Clearance proposals 1.12.55.	Unfit Houses Considered by Council and subject to						Unfit Houses Made Fit or Demolished	Unfit Houses awaiting consideration by Council.
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Dem. Orders	Clearance Orders	Action Pending	Total		
398	27	7	7	Nil	Nil	41	15	342



(e) Housing Improvements

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	...	31
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"					Nil
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices	...				Nil
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices	...	...	...	...	Nil
(5)	Houses repaired or reconditioned following Statutory Undertaking under Housing Act	...	...	...	...	1
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	...	...	...	...	11

(f) Housing Improvement Grants

(1)	Applications for Improvement Grants	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Improvement Grants approved	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Schemes completed	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	...			Nil

(g) Rent Act

(1)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	8
(2)	Decisions to issue Certificates	...	...	8
(3)	Undertakings given by Landlords	...	...	1
(4)	Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	6
(5)	Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair			Nil

(h) Housing Overcrowding

(1)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1957	...	...	1
(2)	Overcrowded houses found during 1958	...	...	Nil
(3)	Overcrowded houses relieved during 1958	...	...	1
(4)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1958	...	...	Nil

(i) Moveable Dwellings

(1)	Licensed Camping Grounds	...	...	Nil
(2)	Licensed Moveable Dwellings	...	...	1
(3)	Informal Notices served re Moveable Dwellings	...	...	Nil





#### 4. WORKPLACES

##### (a) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	30	17	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	47	34	4	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out- worker's premises) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	77	51	5	Nil

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ... Nil

Certificates of Exemption in operation (shops) ... Nil



(b) Defects found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	Nil	4	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	5	1	Nil	5	Nil

(c) Out-Workers

Nature of Outwork	Section 110			Section 111			Inspections
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel - Making, etc.	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1



## 5. WASTE MATTERS

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### (a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor.

No inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers in response to complaints.

### (b) Drainage

#### (i) Drainage Duties

1.	Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
2.	Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3.	Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### (ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, the following improvements were effected:-

1.	Premises drained to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2.	Premises drained to septic tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
3.	Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
4.	Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### (c) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council operated one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Colne Engaine in the Halstead Rural District.

4 inspections of the refuse dump and 6 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made by Public Health Inspectors. Two informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulations.



## 6. PESTS

### (a) Insect Pests

The District was comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. 4 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with insect pests, and 2 premises were disinfested in respect of carpet beetles and fleas. No informal notices were served.

### (b) Rodent Control

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dump were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

With effect from 1st November the Council took over the rat and mouse destruction contract services on Agricultural Properties which had previously been operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Operator during the year were:-

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural				5 Agricultural
		1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling-Houses Inc. Council Houses	3 All other (Inc. Business Premises).	4 Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I	Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	11	2175	325	2511	17
II	Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
	(a) Notification	Nil	30	5	35	Nil
	(b) Survey under the Act ...	1	1	Nil	2	1
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	10	72	103	185	Nil





	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling-Houses Inc. Council Houses	3 All other (Inc. Business Premises).	4 Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
III Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	Figures not readily available				
IV Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by ...					
(a) Rats Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor	Nil	24	5	29	Nil
(b) Mice Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor	Nil	5	Nil	5	Nil
V Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	Nil	29	5	34	Nil
VI Total treatment carried out - including re-treatments	Nil	13	5	18	Nil
VII Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX Legal proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
X Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	Nil	2	Nil	2	Nil



## 7. MISCELLANEOUS

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The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

(a)	Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	...	...	2
(b)	Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations			5
(c)	Notifiable disease investigations	...	...	Nil
(d)	Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases			Nil
(e)	Visits regarding miscellaneous sanitary matters	...		1
(f)	Pet Shop licences granted	...	...	2
(g)	Pet Shop inspections	...	...	2
(h)	Rag Flock storage licences granted	...	...	1
(i)	Rag Flock Act inspections	...	...	1
(j)	Waste Foods Boiling licences granted	...	...	1
(k)	Waste Foods Boiling premises inspections	...	...	1

The following special report was submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year:-

- (1) Complaints regarding a Poultry Packing Station.



**COUNCIL OFFICES**

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RED HOUSE, COLCHESTER ROAD,  
HALSTEAD, ESSEX

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